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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/665,455	09/18/2003	Arlene A. Wise	S-100,654	6835

35068 7590 03/15/2006

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY
P.O. BOX 1663, MS A187
LOS ALAMOS, NM 87545

EXAMINER

RAMIREZ, DELIA M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1652

DATE MAILED: 03/15/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/665,455	Applicant(s) WISE ET AL.	
	Examiner Delia M. Ramirez	Art Unit 1652	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 9-25 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 9-25 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Status of the Application

Claims 9-25 are pending.

It is noted that the current listing of the claims indicates that claims 1 and 26-29 are withdrawn. However, no text is associated with these claims such that the Examiner could determine the subject matter of those claims. In the interest of advancing prosecution, the Examiner has assumed that these claims have been cancelled. As such, they have not been included in any of the restriction groups below. If Applicants intended these claims to be cancelled, Applicants are required to confirm the cancellation of these claims in the next Office action. If these claims were not intended to be cancelled and Applicants submit new claims encompassing the withdrawn subject matter, a supplemental restriction requirement may be issued if the subject matter of the new claims does not correspond to any of the restriction groups below.

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 9-21 and 25, drawn to a method of detecting 2-chlorophenol, 2,4-dichlorophenol, 2,4-dimethylphenol, 4-nitrophenol, phenol, and 2-nitrophenol, classified in class 435, subclass 29.
 - II. Claims 22-24, drawn in part to the polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO: 1, vectors and host cells comprising said polynucleotide, classified in class 536, subclass 23.1.
 - III. Claims 22-24, drawn in part to the polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO: 2, vectors and host cells comprising said polynucleotide, classified in class 536, subclass 23.1.
 - IV. Claims 22-24, drawn in part to the polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO: 3, vectors and host cells comprising said polynucleotide, classified in class 536, subclass 23.1.

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- V. Claims 22-24, drawn in part to the polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO: 4, vectors and host cells comprising said polynucleotide, classified in class 536, subclass 23.1.
- VI. Claims 22-24, drawn in part to the polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO: 5, vectors and host cells comprising said polynucleotide, classified in class 536, subclass 23.1.
- VII. Claims 22-24, drawn in part to the polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO: 6, vectors and host cells comprising said polynucleotide, classified in class 536, subclass 23.1.
- VIII. Claims 22-24, drawn in part to the polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO: 7, vectors and host cells comprising said polynucleotide, classified in class 536, subclass 23.1.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

2. Groups II-VIII each comprise nucleic acids with an unrelated nucleotide sequence. As such, each of the nucleic acids of Groups II-VIII can be used to probe different targets and would encode proteins of different structure. While the inventions of Groups II-VIII are recited in the claims as part of a Markush group, there is lack of unity within the members of the Markush group as there is no shared common utility and there is no shared substantial structural feature disclosed as being essential to that utility.

Thus, the inventions of Groups II-VIII are members of an improper Markush group according to MPEP § 803.02.

3. Inventions I and II-VIII are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case, the nucleic acids of Inventions II-VIII can be used in the method of detection of Invention I and as hybridization probes.

4. As set forth in MPEP § 803, the criteria for a proper restriction between patentably distinct inventions requires that the inventions must be independent or distinct as claimed, and a search of all the

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inventions would impose a serious burden on the examiner. Groups I-VIII have been shown to be independent or distinct, for the reasons set forth above. MPEP § 803 also indicates that a serious burden on the examiner may be prima facie shown if the Examiner shows by appropriate explanation either separate classification, separate status in the art, or a different field of search. The inventions of Groups I-VIII have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, as shown by their different classification. In addition, a search of all the inventions would require at a minimum a separate patented/non-patented literature search, class/subclass search, and sequence search. These searches are not all co-extensive. Therefore a comprehensive examination of all groups would impose an undue burden on the Examiner. Thus, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

5. The Examiner has required restriction between product and process claims. Where applicant elects claims directed to the product, and a product claim is subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable product claim will be rejoined in accordance with the provisions of MPEP § 821.04. Process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the patentable product will be entered as a matter of right if the amendment is presented prior to final rejection or allowance, whichever is earlier. Amendments submitted after final rejection are governed by 37 CFR 1.116; amendments submitted after allowance are governed by 37 CFR 1.312.

6. In the event of rejoinder, the requirement for restriction between the product claims and the rejoined process claims will be withdrawn, and the rejoined process claims will be fully examined for patentability in accordance with 37 CFR 1.104. Thus, to be allowable, the rejoined claims must meet all criteria for patentability including the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 101, 102, 103, and 112. Until an elected product claim is found allowable, an otherwise proper restriction requirement between product claims and process claims may be maintained. Withdrawn process claims that are not commensurate in scope with an

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allowed product claim will not be rejoined. See "Guidance on Treatment of Product and Process Claims in light of *In re Ochiai*, *In re Brouwer* and 35 U.S.C. § 103(b)," 1184 O.G. 86 (March 26, 1996).

Additionally, in order to retain the right to rejoinder in accordance with the above policy, Applicant is advised that the process claims should be amended during prosecution either to maintain dependency on the product claims or to otherwise include the limitations of the product claims. Failure to do so may result in a loss of the right to rejoinder. Further, note that the prohibition against double patenting rejections of 35 U.S.C. 121 does not apply where the restriction requirement is withdrawn by the examiner before the patent issues. See MPEP § 804.01.

7. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement can be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).


8. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

9. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Delia M. Ramirez whose telephone number is (571) 272-0938. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone

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are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dr. Ponnathapura Achutamurthy can be reached on (571) 272-0928. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1600.



Delia M. Ramirez, Ph.D.
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1652

DR
March 13, 2006